COMIC SHOP NEWS

312

DC Plans World's Finest Summer For Superman & Batman

DC's oldest superheroes, Superman and Batman, have become the focus of attention for comics fans everywhere in recent months. Both of the exciting storylines currently underway in the two families of titles come to a dramatic climax later this summer in a series of events that no comics fan will want to miss.

Bruce Wayne Backs A New Batman

In the recently-released ***Batman #497***, Bruce Wayne suffered a debilitating back injury at the hands of his nemesis Bane that left him unable to continue in his role as Batman. In ***Batman #500***, the final confrontation between Bane and Batman takes place—but the Dark Knight who challenges Bane isn't the familiar Bruce Wayne Batman at all, but another Batman entirely.

With Bruce Wayne unable to carry on in his role as Gotham City's defender, Jean Paul Valley, better known to fans as Azrael, dons a new Batman uniform to carry on in Bruce Wayne's place. Azrael takes over for Batman in the aftermath of the events in ***Batman #497***; in ***Batman #500***, however, he becomes his own Batman, appearing in a dramatically redesigned Batman uniform that features some of elements of the old costume (the ears, the cape) with high-tech armored elements that prepare Azrael for his demanding new duties. The new costume also prepares him for a final confrontation with Bane, the man whose brutal actions resulted in the change of Bat-mantle.

Batman #500, the final installment of the "Knightfall" storyline, is written by Doug Moench, whose characterization of Jean Paul Valley will shape the identity of the new Batman. The 64-page special issue is illustrated by two teams: Jim Aparo and Terry Austin illustrate the first half of the story, while new Batman artist Mike Manley begins his run on the title with the second half of this book. The new costume introduced in this issue is designed by Joe Quesada, who illustrated Azrael's initial appearances in his self-titled miniseries late last year.

Batman #500 is being released in two formats. The $3.95 collectors edition will feature a die-cut overcover and a foil-enhanced inner cover pencilled by Joe Quesada. The standard edition, featuring a different cover by Kelley Jones, is priced at $2.50; both versions are scheduled for August 19th release.

While Bruce Wayne is giving up the Batman role, he certainly isn't disappearing from the DC Universe. Contrary to the rumors that have been rampant recently, Bruce Wayne will not die as a result of his injuries; while his body is broken, he still has his brilliant detective's mind—and he will focus that mind on solving the mystery of Robin's kidnapped father. No longer able to carry out his mission on his own, Bruce Wayne joins forces with Green Arrow, Gypsy, and Bronze Tiger in his quest; this storyline, which spins out of ***Batman #500***, begins in ***Justice League Task Force #5***, written by Dennis O'Neil and illustrated by Sal Velluto and Jeff Albrecht. ***Justice League Task Force #5***, which begins the new "Knightquest: The Search" multi-part storyline, is scheduled for September 2nd release.

Detective Comics #667 and ***Batman: Shadow of the Bat #19*** kick off the new "Knightquest: The Crusade" storyline. There are many more changes in store for Batman in the next several months as the former Azrael adapts to his new identity; the changes aren't always happy ones for Robin (who finds himself locked out of the Batcave) or for Gotham City (which is terrorized by criminals who hope to terrorize the city in the aftermath of Batman's defeat at the hands of Bane). ***Detective Comics #667***, written by Chuck Dixon and illustrated by Graham Nolan and Scott Hanna, is scheduled for September 1st release; ***Batman: Shadow of the Bat #19***, written by Alan Grant and illustrated by Bret Blevins, is scheduled for September 7th release.

A week before the release of ***Batman #500***, DC is releasing an all-new ***Batman T-Shirt*** featuring the distinctive bat design that will soon be recognized as the symbol of the new Batman. This gold metallic emblem printed on a black all-cotton T-shirt is quite different from the Bat that everyone has come to know as the bat-symbol for the past half-century. The new ***Batman T-Shirt***, priced at $16.95, is scheduled for August 12th release.

For fans who want to wear their comics allegiances on their skin rather than on their clothing, DC is also offering ***Batman Temporary Tattoos.*** The package of two tattoos features designs by Kelley Jones; look for the $3.95 package on August 26th.

Metropolis Steels Itself For the One True Superman

The "Reign of the Supermen" story running through the Superman family of books comes to a dramatic climax in ***Superman #82*** and ***Adventures of Superman #505*** as a catastrophic occurrence in the DC Universe leads to a revelation of the one true Superman.

The finale to this long-running storyline pits all four Supermen against Mongul, who attacks Earth and destroys Coast City, the home of Green Lantern. Where Coast City once stood, Mongul has constructed Engine City, a technological monstrosity that will serve as the beginning of the transformation of Earth into a new Warworld. The confrontation between the four Supermen and Mongul is featured in ***Superman #82***, revealing the one true Superman. ***Superman #82*** is written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Brett Breeding.

A week later, ***Adventures of Superman #505*** brings Superman back to Metropolis—and back to Lois Lane, who has never given up hope of his return. The reunion isn't entirely happy, though; there's still the fates of the other Supermen to be considered, as ***Action Comics #692*** reveals.

Both ***Superman #82*** and ***Adventures of Superman #505*** will released in two different editions. ***Superman #82***, an August 26th release featuring 32 pages of story and art with no ads, will be available in a $3.50 deluxe collectors edition with a chromium front cover. The standard format edition, priced at $2.00, will feature a different cover without enhancements; this edition will be 40 pages because of the addition of interior advertising.

Adventures of Superman #505's $2.50 deluxe edition will feature a holografx foil-enhanced front cover; the $1.50 standard edition will feature different cover art without enhancements. ***Adventures of Superman #505***, a September 2nd release, is written by Karl Kesel and illustrated by Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood.

DC is also offering ***Superman Temporary Tattoos.*** The $3.95 package will feature two temporary tattoos illustrated by Dan Jurgens; look for them on August 26th.

A week later, DC is releasing a special nickel-plated ***Superman S-Shield Pin***; this $6.95 deluxe silver-finished pin features the classic Superman logo on a must-have collector's item pin.

The dramatic return of the true Superman occurs just in time to reunite Clark and Lois prior to the debut of the new ***Clark and Lois*** television series on ABC this fall. While the new series focuses on Clark and Lois (hence the title), DC sources who have seen the show say that it features enough Superman in costume to satisfy any Superman fan.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

312
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Joker s On Deck For Anniversary Celebration

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight has chronicled the early days of Batman; for its fiftieth issue, the series will introduce Batman's arch-nemesis the Joker in a story that chronicles the first encounter between these symbols of good and evil. In a story written by *Dennis O'Neil* and illustrated by *Bret Blevins*, Batman must learn to deal with a villain whose modus operandi transcends logic; he also must deal with the Joker's lethal poison gas, which leaves its victims with a distinctive trademark death-grin.

The 64-page celebration issue will also feature a special pin-up section that features Batman as interpreted by *Howard Chaykin, Jim Lee, Mark Schultz, Mike Zeck*, and others. You won't miss this one when it appears on the comics racks: it features a deluxe foil-embossed cover. ***Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #50***, a $3.95 comic, is scheduled for July 15th release.

Rebels With a Cause

Comic Book Rebels, a new 32-page trade paperback from Donald I. Fine Publishers, offers fans a chance to sit in on conversations with such contemporary comics luminaries as *Alan Moore, Frank Miller, Todd Mcfarlane, Dave Sim, Neil Gaiman, Kevin Eastman*, and *Peter Laird*. Edited by *Stanley Wiater* and *Steve Bissette*, ***Comic Book Rebels*** is subtitled **Conversations with the Creators of the New Comics**, and that sums up exactly what you'll find in its pages. The $12.95 volume also contains thirty line drawings. For fans who prefer a higher-quality, more durable volume to decorate their bookshelves, there's also a hardcover version priced at $25. Look for ***Comic Book Rebels*** in July.

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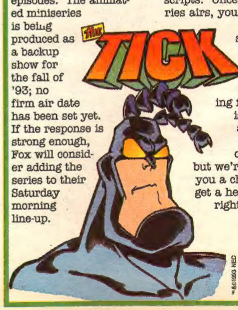
The Tick Grabs Hold At Fox

Ben Edlund's zany superhero spoof ***The Tick*** becomes the latest comic book series to find a home on television: Fox Children's Network has picked up the rights to the series and, according to NEC (the series' publisher), Fox is committed to the production of at least six episodes. The animated miniseries is being produced as a backup show for the fall of '93; no firm air date has been set yet. If the response is strong enough, Fox will consider adding the series to their Saturday morning line-up.

Ben Edlund, ***The Tick***'s creator, has been signed as a creative consultant for the series, and he is working with Fox to make sure that The Tick maintains the same edge in cartoon form as it has in the comic book. Edlund will be working on four of the first scripts. Once this series airs, you can expect to see a lot of new ***Tick*** fans clamoring for back issues of any and all Tick comics—but we're giving you a chance to get a head start right now!...



COMIC SHOP NEWS ULTRAPRIZE! CONTEST

WIN AN AUTOGRAPHED HARDCASE ASHCAN EDITION

Your friends at Malibu wanted to do something special for ***CSN*** readers and they've provided us with a copy of the ashcan edition of *Hardcase #1* which hits shops in June. Not only that, but it is *autographed* by creators *James Hundall* and *Jim Callahan!* This is a very limited edition and will be a great addition to your collection. So how can you enter for a chance to get it? Easy, just send your name and address and your store's name and address to:

CSN UltraPrize Contest
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Marietta, GA 30066

Oh, and in addition to this info, you must correctly answer this simple question:

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- ❒ a StereoComic™
- ❒ a video
- ❒ an animated comic
- ❒ radioactive

Need a hint? Next week's issue of ***Comic Shop News*** (#313) will "brief" readers on the answer you desire. Don't miss it! Entries must be in by June 24, 1993. The winner will be announced in ***CSN*** 317.

And retailers, if the winner lists your shop as his retailer, **you** will win a regular (not autographed) copy of the Hardcase ashcan edition. So encourage your customers to enter so you both can win!

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There Il Be a Hot Time In the Old Town Tonight

Judge Dredd's world may have its share of ugliness, but that doesn't mean that it doesn't also have a great many pulchritudinous females inhabiting its environs as well. Unfortunately, some of the most attractive of those young women are disappearing at an alarming rate, and even the undercover vice judges are having trouble figuring out just what's happening. That's where Judge Shea comes in; she's not only one of the most savvy Judges in Brit-Cit, but she also has some unique abilities—namely pyrokinetic powers. ***Brit-Cit Babes,*** a 48-page one-shot by *John Wagner* and *Steve Sampson*, follows Judge Shea's investigation of the case... and her confrontation with the pimp known as "Iceman." "Some say the world will end in fire/Others say it will end in ice..." Find out just who's right in ***Brit-Cit Babes,*** a $5.95 deluxe-format one-shot with an eye-catching *Brian Bolland* cover; look for it in June.

Zen Finds an Alternity Publishing Entity

Zen, Intergalactic Ninja, the ecologically-oriented action hero whose adventures have been published both by Zen Comics and by Archie Comics, finds a new publisher beginning in July. Entity Comics, a subsidiary of Parody Press, will take over monthly publication of Zen beginning with a new three-issue limited series entitled ***Zen Intergalactic Ninja: The Alternity Saga.*** Written and illustrated by *Bill Maus*, the new series pits Zen against a fifty-foot tall cosmic prisoner known as Paradoxx; Zen is joined by Nira, the galaxy's highest paid mercenary for hire... but even the pair of heroes might find Paradoxx a difficult villain to defeat. The flip-book will feature a Young Zen story on the other side; this five page adventure leads into the upcoming ***Young Zen*** limited series. The $2.95 premiere issue will feature a metallic gold foil stamped front cover.

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An Attractive X-Men Anniversary Issue

The X-Men 30th Anniversary celebration reaches its zenith in July—and the result is a book that no mutant fan will be able to pass up. ***Uncanny X-Men #304*** packs a powerful one-two punch that should propel it to championship status: not only does the book feature a stunning hologram-enhanced wrap-around cover, but the storyline reintroduces the Master of Magnetism into the X-Men's world.

The story begins as members of X-Men, X-Force, X-Factor, and Excalibur gather to bury a friend; at this low point in their lives, Magneto returns to menace the team—and one of the mutant's own allies turns against them! ***Uncanny X-Men #304*** is written by *Scott Lobdell* and illustrated by *John Romita Jr.* The cover of this 64-page $3.95 book will feature a stunning Magneto hologram on a heavy cardstock cover. Look for it on July 8th.

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Hardcovers For a Hard-Hitting Hero

Jim Valentino's ***Shadowhawk*** trade paperback is already on the racks in your local comic shop—but fans who want a more durable and collectible version of the book will be interested in Graphitti Designs' ***Shadowhawk Limited Edition Hardcover.*** Only 2500 copies of this hardcover are being produced for comic book shops; this 138-page book is a signed and numbered edition that also features foil stamping on the cover, illustrated endpapers, a silver embossed red holo-foil dustjacket and a special numbered signature page featuring writer/artist Jim Valentino's John Hancock. If you don't want to miss out, let your local comic shop know that you can't live without it—and, as always, tell 'em that you heard about it in ***CSN.***

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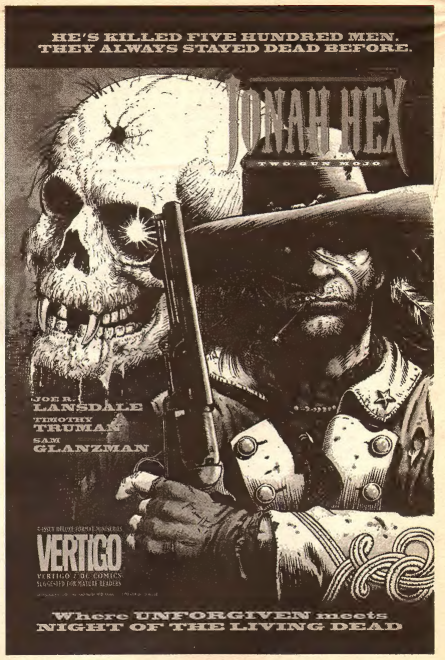

ROB LIEFELD • MARK PACELLA

JUNE '93

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Malibu's Ultraverse Is More Than Just Another Universe

After months of planning and coordinating, Malibu Comics has revealed some of the concepts behind the company's major superhero universe launch, the Malibu Ultraverse—and it's evident that, in a time when many publishers are launching their own superhero universe, Malibu is taking steps to ensure that fans realize that this is more than just another superhero line.

Like the Image Universe, the Malibu Ultraverse is a "shared universe" that provides a common backdrop in which a variety of superheroes operate; the characters are the creations of major writing talents, including Mike Barr, Steve Englehart, Steve Gerber, James Hudnall, Gerard Jones, Tom Mason, Larry Niven, James Robinson, and Len Strazewski. "I knew that to take the concept to comics would require some terrifically creative people and some pretty fast editorial footwork—which is why I chose each of the core writers," Malibu editor-in-chief Chris Ulm said. "There is definitely not a shortage of imaginative material with this group! I think there's a real hunger for stories and characters that are more than just two-dimensional cut-outs. Many of the mainstream publishers are under tremendous pressure to crank out title after title to protect their market share and stockholders' interests. There are a lot of rehashes of old ideas that are pawned off as being new."

Once the basic concepts of the Malibu Ultraverse were solidified, Malibu called on a group of talented artists to bring them to life visually; the artists involved in the Ultraverse rollout include Art Adams, David Ammerman, Jerry Bingham, Bret Blevins, Norm Breyfogle, James Callahan, Dave Gibbons, Adam Hughes, Jeff Johnson, Hoang Nguyen, Kevin Nowlan, Paul Pelletier, Darick Robertson, and Walt Simonson. Some of the artists were involved in character design, while others will contribute covers and interior art to the new line of books.

Before the Ultraverse heroes were created, the core world in which they operate was envisioned. Furthermore, the writers worked together to see to it that their heroes operated within a cohesive universe. "The Ultraverse is not a disjoined connection of creator-owned pet projects," Malibu creative director Tom Mason said. "It really is a group-think—new projects created as a product of a unified backstory with crossovers that make sense!"

According to editor Chris Ulm, the Malibu Ultraverse "is not one writer's vision, one artist's vision, or one editor's vision. It is the combined vision of the creative people and Malibu's editorial staff. the Ultraverse is a separate, stand-alone universe that doesn't have anything to do with anything that Malibu has published in the past." Malibu will continue to publish a full line of titles, including its very popular superhero book The Protectors and related spin-off titles; however, all Ultraverse books will carry a separate Ultraverse logo and distinguishing emblem on the cover to help fans recognize them as part of a different superhero concept.

ALL ART * BEYOND MALIBU GRAPHICS, INC.

The Ultraverse Heroes

The first Ultraverse title, debuting in June, is ***Hardcase,*** written by James Hudnall, designed by Dave Gibbons, and illustrated by Jim Callahan. Hardcase is really Tom Hawke, an actor who gains incredible strength and near invulnerability; he was once a part of a superteam known as "The Squad," but now he's on his own, trying to come to terms with his past so that he can become a hero for the future.

Also debuting in June is ***Strangers,*** a superteam title written by Steve Englehart, designed by Darick Robertson, and illustrated by Rick Hoberg. The team members were occupants of a cable car that was struck by an unknown burst of energy; in the aftermath, they find that they are united by the unique powers they have gained through this experience. They are novice heroes, learning about themselves and their abilities as they go along.

Prime, written by Gerard Jones and Len Strazewski, designed by Bret Blevins, and illustrated by Norm Breyfogle, is June's final superhero debut. Prime is the strongest Ultranormal alive—and he's also a thirteen year old boy who finds that, in light of his powers and experiences, he no longer fits in to his adolescent world. Furthermore, there are unknown enemies who want to learn all about Prime's powers...even if they have to destroy him in the process.

Also debuting in June is ***Ultra,*** an Ultraverse title with a difference. ***"Ultra*** isn't a comic book as such," Malibu publisher Dave Olbrich said. "It's sort of like a ***People Magazine*** set entirely in the Malibu Ultraverse. ***Ultra*** treats the heroes as if they're real, because in this world, they are real." ***Ultra,*** a sixteen-page "magazine," is distributed free to Ultraverse readers.

In July, Malibu introduces two more books: ***Freex*** and ***Mantra. Freex,*** written by Gerard Jones and designed by Walter Simonson, focuses on five ultrahumans who gained their powers through an experiment gone wrong; while they view their powers as a curse, the Freex must band together to protect themselves from a society that fears them.

Mantra is designed by Adam Hughes, written by Mike Barr, and illustrated by Terry Dodson. Mantra is the current incarnation of Lukasz, an eternal warrior who is reincarnated in a new body each time he is "killed" by his enemies. This time, though, there's a new twist: Lukasz's new body is female!

August's new entries are ***Exiles*** and ***Prototype. Exiles,*** designed by Marat Mychaels, written by Steve Gerber, and illustrated by Paul Pelletier and Ken Branch, stars eight ultrahumans who gained their powers through a deadly virus that transformed them. ***Prototype,*** written by Len Strazewski and Tom Mason and illustrated by David Ammerman and James Pascoe, Prototype is a one-man army suit of high-tech armor that makes its wearer the ultimate warrior... but all the bugs haven't been worked out yet (after all, it's called Prototype!)...

September brings ***Firearm*** and ***The Solution. Firearm*** is written by James Robinson and designed by Jerry Bingham; he's a normal private investigator who must learn to operate in an Ultranormal world, dealing regularly

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#3 COMING ATTRACTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

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#3 Features:

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Vortex #1 "Division 13"
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Images of Shadowhawk #1
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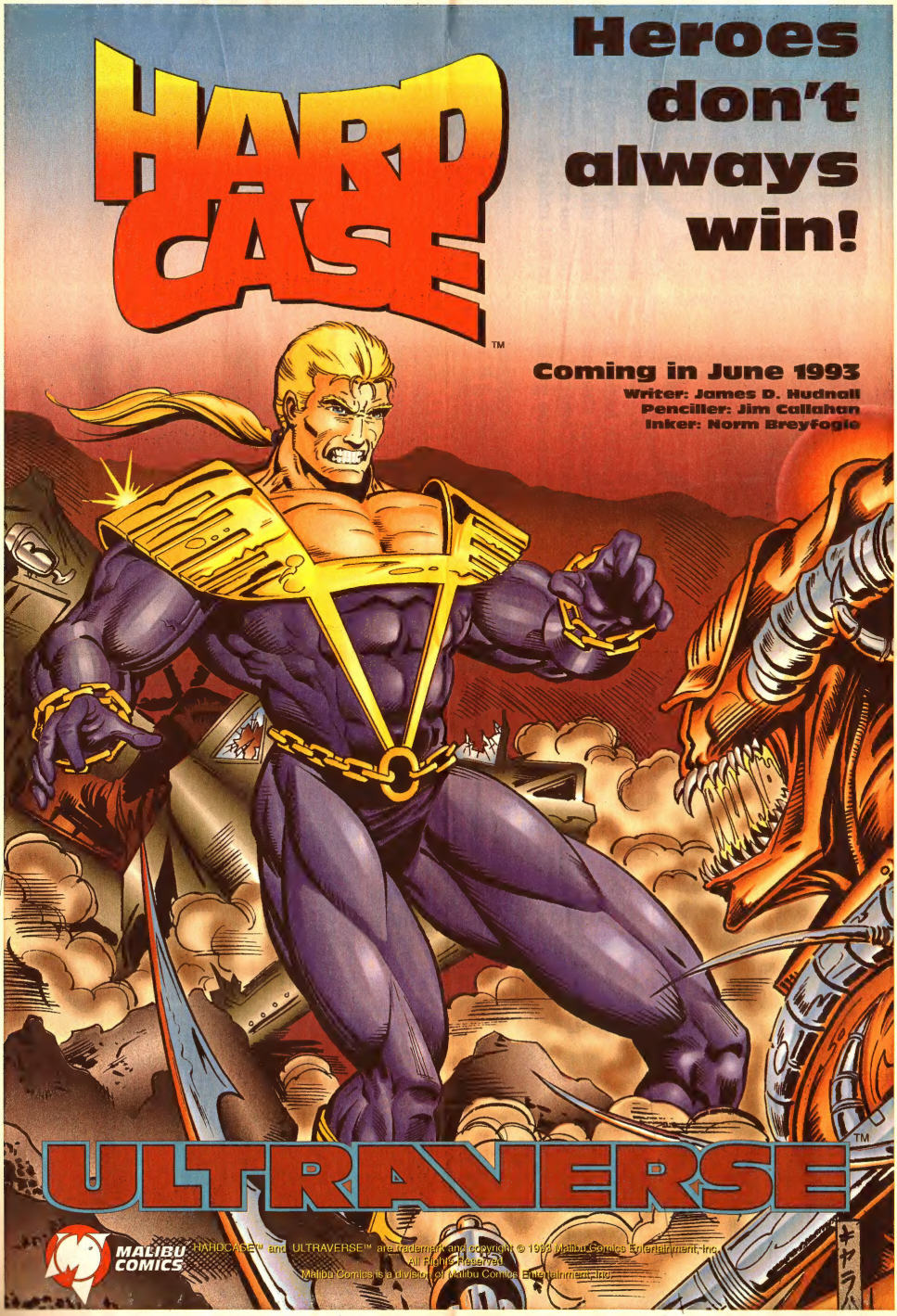
Line-up subject to change if books are delayed.



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with enemies who possess incredible powers. ***The Solution,*** written by Jame Hudnall, designed by Hoang Nguyen, and illustrated by Chris Wozniak and John Lowe, is a team of super-powered mercenaries hired by Lela Cho to help her recover her company from the control of the criminal organization known as The Dragon Fang... but The Solution isn't without problems of its own!

October will see the premiere of ***Nightman*** and ***Sludge.*** Written by Steve Englehart and illustrated and designed by Darick Robertson, Nightman has the uncanny ability to "hear" evil intentions; he stalks the underworld of San Francisco, using his abilities to locate and stop criminals before they can successfully complete their plans. Sludge was once Frank Hoag, a corrupt cop who was gunned down and dumped in chemical waste when he wouldn't go far enough to suit his criminal contacts; now he's a monstrous creature known as Sludge, but he still possesses his human intellect. ***Sludge*** is written by Steve Gerber, designed by Kevin Nowlan, and illustrated by Aaron Lopresti.

Other Malibu Ultraverse heroes and villains will be introduced in coming months; expansion of the line will be done gradually and deliberately, though, so that fans aren't faced with a huge number of premiere issues at the same time.

The Rollout

Each Ultraverse title will feature 32 pages of story and art for $1.95 (with the exception of ***Ultra,*** which is a free sixteen-page "magazine" set in the Ultraverse). Malibu is intentionally not polybagging the first issues with trading cards. "We don't want people to think that we have to 'trick' them into buying the first issues," publisher Dave Olbrich said. "We want fans to be able to look through the first issues and see just how great they are. We will be polybagging a later issue with trading cards but it won't be the first issue." Those trading card will be designed and produced by Skybox.

Malibu will also be offering an incentive comic, ***Ultraverse #0,*** that will be available to fans who mail in coupons from ***Malibu Sun #26, Hardcase #1, Prime #1, Strangers #1,*** and an issue of ***Wizard.***

Skybox will also produce a one-hundred-card set of ***Malibu Ultraverse Trading Cards*** in August. These cards will feature original artwork done for Skybox by the illustrators of the Ultraverse line; the backs of the sets will feature a wealth of biographical and other information about the characters; according to George White of Skybox, this information is "critical to understanding the past, present, and future of the Ultraverse. A bonus subset of nine Ultraverse rookies, featuring characters who will not make their first appearance in Malibu Comics until later in the year, will be randomly inserted in a limited number of ***Ultraverse Comic Card*** packs. Four selected Ultraverse rookies will have their cards foil stamped, serving as a second, more limited level of bonus cards. An incredible third, most limited, level of two bonus cards will feature original artwork of two top Ultraverse characters, transferred to cards with a never-before-seen process."

Skybox's ***Malibu Ultraverse Comic Cards,*** available in eight-card packs; will be priced at $1 per pack.

Malibu will also offer special limited versions of their books available as a special incentive, a la Valiant and other publishers; a special ***Prime*** stand-up display, and more.

In a season in which a number of publishers have plans for superhero line premieres, there's no doubt that Malibu has taken steps to guarantee that the Malibu Ultraverse line isn't overlooked in the summertime flood of comics. Of course, the most important step of all is the acquisition of top writers and artists—and Malibu has already accomplished that.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

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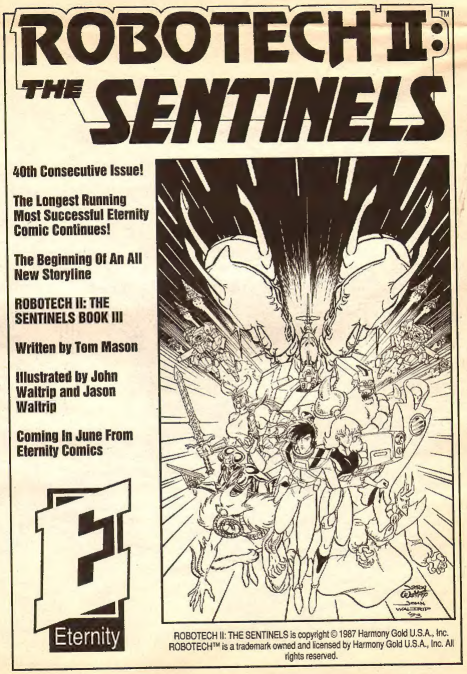
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Coming In June From Eternity Comics
Eternity
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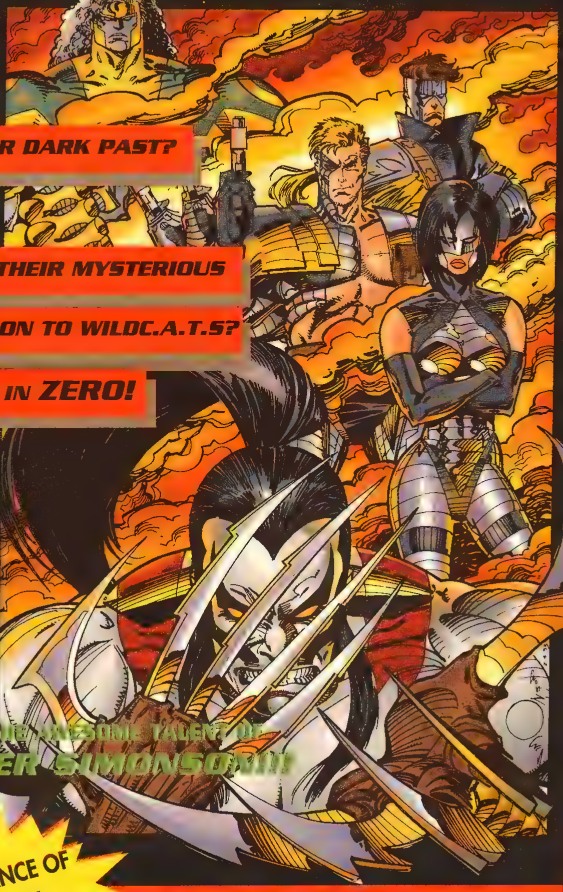
CYBER FORCE #0



WHAT IS THEIR DARK PAST?

WHAT IS THEIR MYSTERIOUS CONNECTION TO WILDC.A.T.S?

FIND OUT IN ZERO!

SHOWCASING THE AWESOME TALENT OF
WALTER SIMONSON!!!

1st APPEARANCE OF THE ORIGINAL STORMWATCH

ON SALE IN JUNE!

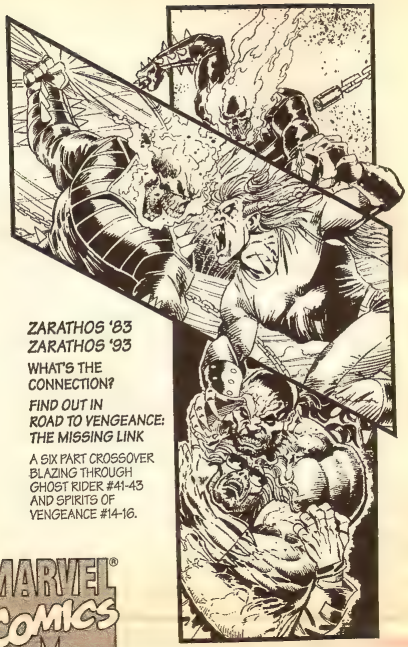
Image

CYBER FORCE ™ & © 1993 Top Cow Productions, Inc. All Rights Reserved. All artwork © Top Cow Productions, Inc.

SPIDER-MAN #37

VENOM'S VENGEANCE

DON'T MISS THE EXPLOSIVE PART 12 OF THE 14-PART "MAXIMUM CARNAGE" CROSSOVER. IT'S AN UNBELIEVABLE BATTLE ROYALE AS SPIDER-MAN AND HIS ARACHNID ENTOURAGE TAKE ON CARNAGE'S CLAN. THIS SCORCHING BATTLE IS SET AGAINST THE BURNING BACKDROP OF NEW YORK CITY. BY J.M. DEMATTEIS. TOM LYLE , SCOTT HANNA AND AL MILGROM.



ZARATHOS '83
ZARATHOS '93

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

FIND OUT IN ROAD TO VENGEANCE: THE MISSING LINK

A SIX PART CROSSOVER BLAZING THROUGH GHOST RIDER #41-43 AND SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #14-16.

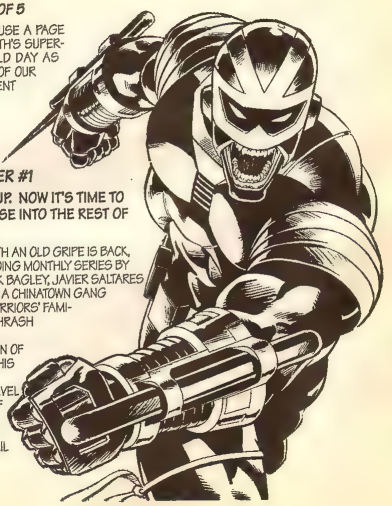
MARVEL® COMICS

MORBIUS #12

MORBIUS AND THE WEREWOLF MEET BLADE!!!

MIDNIGHT MASSACRE PART 2 OF 5

WHATEVER POSSESSED BLADE TO USE A PAGE OF THE DARKHOLD TO DEFEAT EARTH'S SUPERNATURAL EVILS IS HAVING A FIELD DAY AS BLADE TRIES TO STRIKE DOWN TWO OF OUR GREATEST HEROES. BLACK PARCHMENT COVER WITH GOLD METALLIC INK.



NIGHT THRASHER #1

HE'S ALL GROWN UP. NOW IT'S TIME TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE NEW WARRIOR WITH AN OLD GRIPE IS BACK, THIS TIME IN AN ONGOING MONTHLY SERIES BY FABIAN NICIEZA, MARK BAGLEY, JAVIER SALTARES & LARRY MAHLSTEDT. A CHINATOWN GANG ATTACKS THE NEW WARRIORS' FAMILIES AND IT'S UP TO THRASH TO STOP THEM. ALSO FEATURING THE ORIGIN OF NIGHT THRASHER, THIS 48-PAGE PREMIERE FEATURES A MULTI-LEVEL EMBOSSED IMAGE OF THRASH, WITH HOLO-GRAFX™ FOIL ENHANCED DETAIL ON HIS ARMOR.

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IRON MAN ANNUAL#14

TO FACE THE FACE THIEF!!!

MEET KAO-GOTO-SURU. HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY. THAT IS, UNTIL YOU DISCOVER HE'S UP TO HIS YAKITORI IN JAPANESE DEMONOLOGY. DON'T MISS TONY'S EPIC BATTLE WITH THIS DIABOLICAL VILLAIN. IRON MAN'S ALREADY LOST THE USE OF HIS LEGS. WILL HE LOSE FACE, AS WELL? 64 PAGES. SELF-CONTAINED STORY. EXCLUSIVE "ROOKIE" FACE THIEF TRADING CARD.

WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #19

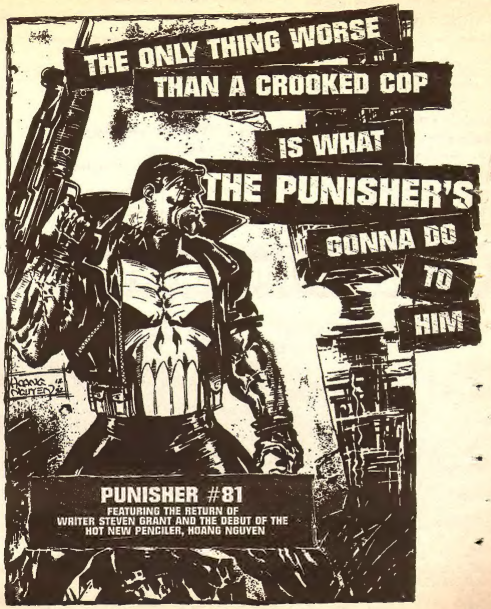
THE NEWEST PLOT TO STOP THE GODDESS IS QUITE A PIP! *DON'T MISS THE NEVER ENDING BATTLE IN THIS INFINITY CRUSADE CROSSOVER.*

PIP LAUNCHES HIS PLOT OF REVENGE AGAINST THE CONVERTED HEROES. AS IF THIS DIDN'T MAKE THINGS BAD ENOUGH, THE MOLE MAN CONFRONTS WARLOCK. BY STARLIN, GRINDBERG & WILLIAMS.

AVENGERS #365

FROM NOW ON, "A" IS FOR ATTITUDE!

THE BIG CHANGES CONTINUE IN THE PAGES OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES AS HANK PYM REJOINS A DARKER TEAM THAN HE REMEMBERS—AS DOES THE SHI'AR EMISSARY IN A RIVETING TALE THAT LEADS UP TO NEXT MONTH'S ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULAR. IT'S BY BOB HARRAS, STEVE EPTING AND TOM PALMER, AND ALSO INCLUDES A FREE TRADING CARD AND HUNT FOR MAGNETO CONTEST PIECE.



Red K Awards Redux

Boy, did we get letters! After **CSN**'s third annual ***Red K Awards*** appeared a few months ago, we encouraged readers to send us their own entries—and it looks like lots of you had something to say! Here are a few of the highlights of the many dozens of responses we got. (As might be expected, there was a small amount of duplication in the intent of the awards, even though readers assigned their own names to the categories.)

The "Evergreen" Award

Savage Dragon

"***Savage Dragon*** is the most entertaining book that Image has produced so far. I was really sad to see it end, but now I see in ***CSN*** that it's coming back this summer. Yay!"

—*Larry Mathis*

The Too-Many-Happy-Returns Award

Last summer's Batman "bonanza"

"Hey, I'm a Bat-fan, but I also have a budget to work with! DC published so many Batman miniseries, one-shots, graphic novels, adaptations, and spinoffs in connection with ***Batman Returns*** that I don't know of anyone who could afford 'em all! Have pity on us, DC!"

—*Paul Murchison*

The Wait-Til-The-Cows-Come-Home Award

Lobo
Honorable Mention: New Titans & Team Titans

"Why is it that every one of the ***Titan*** and ***Lobo*** titles have to come out sometimes two months late?"

—*Aaron Belisle*

The "What Was That Song?" Award

X-Ecutioner's Song

"This storyline proved once and for all that, just when you think the X-titles can't get any more confusing, they will."

—*Ben Herman*

The Byrne-ing Talent Award

John Byrne & Next Men

"John Byrne is one of the few giants in the industry who is still committed to turning out a quality book every month. He's not just rehashing the past, either; he's doing some really good new stuff that I look forward to reading every month."

—*Grant Whitaker*

The Many Unhappy Returns Award

Cage #12

"Iron Fist is back! Only Cage and Iron Fist don't act chummy any more. They try to kill each other! The ratings are high, though (and so is the price)."

—*Justin Razavi*

The Gimmick-For-Art's-Sake Award

Bloodshot #1

At last, a gimmick that actually makes the artwork look good, too!"

—*Eddie Carter*

"Finally, a cover gimmick that isn't only eye-catching, but really enhances the artwork on the cover..."

—*Clint Ragsdale*

The "Where'd-They-Go?" Award

Justice Society of America & Heckler

"I can understand cancelling a book if hasn't found an audience after a decent amount of time—but is six or eight months really a decent amount of time? There's nothing wrong with the concepts of either of these books that a little tinkering couldn't improve; why not try to make them better rather than cancelling them? This is particularly true of the JSA; they were some of DC's best heroes, and now that they've been saddled with a few issues of an unsuccessful series, I doubt if I'll ever get to see 'em in their own book again."

—*Brian Vorstein*

The All-In-One Award

Valiant's Unity Crossover Series

"I was happily surprised; the stories actually made sense even if you didn't buy every installment in the crossover. This is the way a crossover should be done!"

—*Katharine Blankenship*

The Topps Dog Award

Dracula Adaptation

"Topps, a brand new comic producer, created the first good comic adaptation of a movie in years, succeeding in an area that even Marvel and DC, comic book veterans, couldn't get right!"

—*Ben Herman*

The "Is It Live? Or Is It McFarlane-Ex?" Award

Steve Oliff & Olyoptics

Thanks to these guys for giving us cutting-edge technology coloring that made us shake our heads and ask "Is it Kodak? Or just great coloring?"

—*Augie DeBleck*

The Critical Mass Award

Marvel Comics

"Marvel has added so many books to their comics line that they seem to have reached critical mass; the chain reaction is out of control, and it's sort of destructive to the overall Marvel line. Quantity is up, but let's see more emphasis on quality."

—*Trey Scholes*

The Comics Comic Award

Peter David's X-Factor and Incredible Hulk

Peter David proves that humor doesn't have to be a silly-named satire of last month's Image comic. He manages to write truly funny material without giving up the excitement of superhero comics. Keep it up, Peter!"

—*Chad Futrall*

The Bizarro Role Model Award

Mary Jane Watson Parker

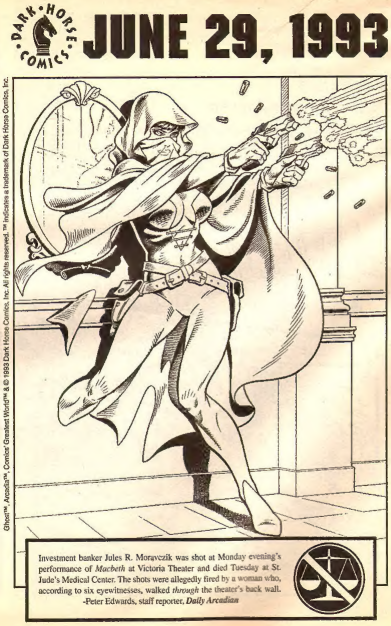
"What a crummy thing to do! They took a good character like Mary Jane and turned her into a stinking smoker! At least Gwen Stacy got to die all at once without killing herself... For that matter, why do so many women in comics smoke? Is it a male fantasy or something?"

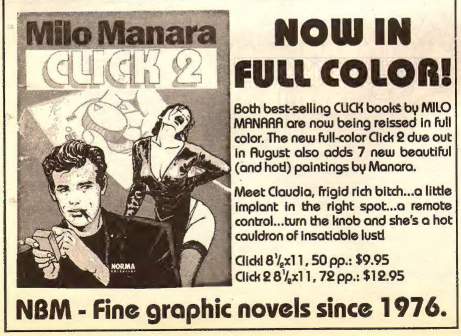
—*Sheila Brantley*

The All the Pieces of the Puzzle Award

Green Lantern: Mosaic

"Take a second-rate hero who's been down on his luck and throw him in the middle of a dozen alien races forced to coexist against their will and what do you get? A schizophrenic's fondest dream, and an intelligent, thought-provoking title. Cheers to Gerard Jones for finally making something worth-


DARK HORSE COMICS
JUNE 29, 1993
Ghost™ Aeroforce™ Comics' Greatest World™ & © 1993 Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. ™ indicates a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
Investment banker Jules R. Moravezik was shot at Monday evening's performance of *Macbeth* at Victoria Theater and died Tuesday at St. Jude's Medical Center. The shots were allegedly fired by a woman who, according to six eyewitnesses, walked *through* the theater's back wall.
-Peter Edwards, staff reporter, *Daily Arcadius*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COMING IN AUGUST
Milo Manara
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NORMA
NOW IN FULL COLOR!
Both best-selling CLICK books by MILO MANARA are now being reissued in full color. The new full-color Click 2 due out in August also adds 7 new beautiful (and hot!) paintings by Manara.
Meet Claudia, frigid rich bitch...a little implant in the right spot...a remote control...turn the knob and she's a hot cauldron of insatiable lust!
Click! 8½x11, 50 pp.: $9.95
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NBM - Fine graphic novels since 1976.

while out of John Stewart and to DC for presenting a really different superhero book."
—*Clint Ragsdale*

The "Aging Gracefully" Award

"The Golden Age Hawkgirl is still able to dodge laser blasts, take on evil aliens, battle super-heroes not even half her age (like Hawkwoman), not to mention looking amazing in a green minidress, even though she's supposed to be roughly seventy years old."
—*Kevin Hawkins*

The Neverending Story Award

Robin 3000

"A limited series is supposed to present a self-contained story, not one that's incomplete... Ten dollars for this? A mere prologue? It's scary to think of how much the entire story will cost, if they even do it!"
—*Mark Schirmer*

The Truth In Advertising Award

Infinity Gauntlet, Infinity War, Infinity Crusade, ad infinitum...

"No one can accuse these guys of not delivering just what the name implies!..."
—*Bret Johns*

"Wow! It really does go on forever!"
—*Clint Ragsdale*

"Will it ever end?!"
—*Scott Holt*

The Card-Collector's Doomsday Award

Doomsday: Death of Superman Trading Cards

"It took me two boxes to get a complete set of these cards!..."
—*Alicia Smithwick*

"... They were poorly sorted. It took me three boxes alone to complete one 100-card set."
—*Aaron Belisle*

"I never could complete a set because they made so few of the cards and my shop never could get enough to sell me a whole box...."
—*Ernest Moss*

"They ought to offer complete sets of these cards in a special package, even if they're second printings; it's not fair to fans who couldn't find the cards on sale after the first week or so..."
—*Shane Turner*

The Grade-A Shelf Warmer Award

High-quality non-gimmick books

"This goes to the many high quality comic books out there that play benchwarmer because they don't have foil, glow-in-the-dark covers with polybagged posters and trading cards... It seems funny that these titles don't sell because you have to be literate and somewhat intelligent to enjoy them."
—*Aaron Belisle*

And finally, one reader gave ***CSN*** a couple of awards...

The "Upset of the Year" Award I

1992 Readers' Red K Awards

"Last year, the fans' ***Red K Awards*** were much funnier and wittier than ***CSN***'s version. Will history repeat itself? Only time and this letter will tell."
—*Uncle Q (?)*

But Uncle Q was kind to us, too, adding another award:

The "Upset of the Year" Award II

"In my opinion, ***CSN*** did more for comics than last y ear's winner did. Look for an upset-of-the-year in the upcoming ***CBG*** awards on the category of best publication about comics. Good luck!"

There were many, many other awards given, some of which were similar in content to the listed awards, some of which were a wee bit too personally critical of some comic book creators of companies, and many of which were top-notch awards that we simply don't have space to run. Thanks for taking part in this year's second phase of the ***Red K Awards,*** and I hope we'll see all of you back here again in a half-year when ***CSN*** takes a Red K look back at 1993.

Last Week CSN featured the June Hot Picks.

Next Week CSN will feature reviews plus the crucial clue on the CSN Ultraprize Contest. Don't miss your chance to win.

COMIC SHOP NEWS

MISS A WEEK AND YOU MISS A LOT!

Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want your comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____ Phone _____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

_____

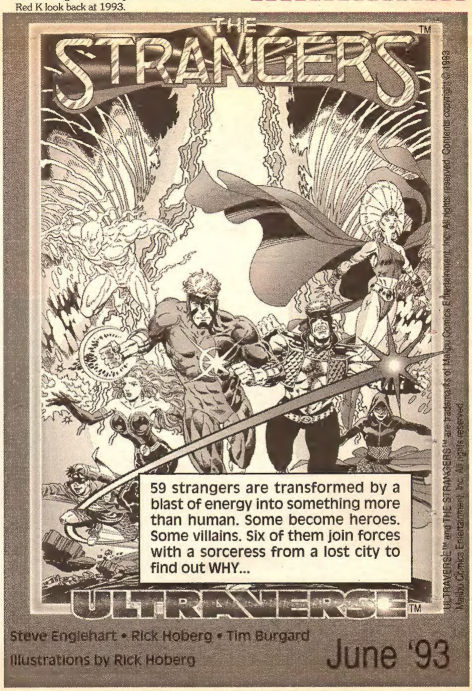
_____

_____

_____

Be sure to give this to your retailer. Do not send it to ***CSN!*** Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!

STEVEN SPIELBERG AND TOPPS COMICS PRESENT THE SPELLBINDING CONCLUSION:
JURASSIC PARK™
OFFICIAL COMICS ADAPTATION
ISSUE 4 OF 4
SHIPPING AUGUST
SIMONSON • KANE • PEREZ
JURASSIC PARK
topps COMICS
EACH ISSUE CONTAINS ONE OF FOUR SPECIAL AMBER EDITION ACTION HOLOGRAM CARDS!
THE EXCITEMENT OF JURASSIC PARK DOESN'T END HERE. LOOK FOR A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT MONTH FROM TOPPS – HOME OF THE BLOCKBUSTER.


THE STRANGERS™
59 strangers are transformed by a blast of energy into something more than human. Some become heroes. Some villains. Six of them join forces with a sorceress from a lost city to find out WHY...
ULTRAVERSE™
Steve Englehart • Rick Hoberg • Tim Burgard
Illustrations by Rick Hoberg
June '93

MARVEL HOT PICKS

Death³™ & © 1993 Marvel UK Ltd.

DEATH³ #1!

Three times the excitement means Death³! Of course, it wouldn't be the same unless it had a foil-embossed cover!

Ectokid™ & © 1993 Clive Barker

ECTOKID #1!

This new super hero title from Clive Barker's RAZORLINE imprint premieres with a prismatic foil cover!

AVENGERS #366!

This is *the* Avengers 30th Anniversary issue, complete with an embossed gold foil cover and 64 action-packed pages!

INCREDIBLE HULK #409!

Brains meet brawn an issue that guest stars Marvel UK's Motormouth and Killpower !

MARVEL AGE #128!

All the scoop on the eagerly-anticipated Sabretooth and Wolverine limited series! This issue also includes a "Hunt for Magneto" game piece!

AVENGERS WEST COAST ANNUAL #1!

This polybagged, 64-page giant introduces the high-flying Raptor with an exclusive trading card!

MARVEL COMICS

MARVEL COMICS SHIPPING THE WEEK OF JULY 20TH

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